

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 00973 061243Z

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SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS FOR PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

REF: STATE 68979 AND STATE 60164

FOLLOWING DRAFT TEXT SUBMITTED FOR AMBASSADOR HECK'S
CONSIDERATION:

1. I AM HONORED TO BECOME THE FIFTH AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER AND THUS TO REPRESENT MY COUNTRY TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND YOUR GOVERNMENT. IT IS WITH A SENSE OF PRIDE AND ANTICIPATION THAT I FOLLOW MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSORS, AMBASSADORS COOK, RYAN, ADAMS AND MCCLELLAND, IN WORKING FOR CONTINUED, CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

2. FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, NIGER HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY A SEVERE AND UNRELENTING DROUGHT. THE AGRICUTURAL AND PASTORAL STRENGTH OF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED AND THE PEOPLE SUBJECTED TO GRAVE HARDSHIPS. NEVERTHELESS, DURING THIS TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED PROBLEMS, THE PEOPLE OF NIGER HAVE INDEED BEEN FORTUNATE IN HAVING YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO GUIDE THE COUNTRY. YOUR INSPIRATION HAS GIVEN THE PEOPLE HOPE AND COURAGE; YOUR EXAMPLE AND EXHORTATION HAVE LED NIGER TO MOBILIZE ITS RESOURCES TO THE FULLEST TO MEET THE CHALLENGE; YOUR VISION AND PLANNING ARE PREPARING NIGER TO BETTER WITHSTAND THE CRUEL VAGARIES OF NATURE IN THE FUTURE.

3. THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN DEEPLY MOVED
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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 00973 061243Z

BY THE TRAGEDY WHICH HAS BEFALLEN NIGER. THEIR RESPONSE

HAS TAKEN THE FORM OF AID GIVEN THROUGH PRIVATE AND INDIVIDUAL CHANNELS AS WELL AS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE HELPING NIGER IN ITS TIME OF TRIAL WITH FOOD, MEDICINE, TRANSPORT AND OTHER NECESSITIES. YOU CAN BE ASSURED, MR. PRESIDENT, THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP NIGER TO MEET ITS SPECIAL NEEDS AS A RESULT OF THE DROUGHT.

4. WHILE THE EXIGENCIES OF THE DROUGHT HAVE CLAIMED MUCH OF OUR ATTENTION, WE HAVE NEVER LOST SIGHT OF NIGER'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS HAVE SERVED IN NIGER SINCE 1962. THROUGH THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (USAID), WE HAVE PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE PAST IN HELPING NIGER DEVELOP ITS TRANSPORT AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS AND WE ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN SIMILAR ENTERPRISES. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS OUR PROJECT TO RAISE THE GAYA BRIDGE. ALSO WE ARE NOW WORKING WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT ON A MAJOR, LONG-TERM EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION IN NIGER.

5. IN SPEAKING OF AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN NIGER'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, I SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO MENTION THAT SOME OF OUR PRIVATE COMPANIES ARE PLAYING IMPORTANT ROLES BY THEIR EFFORTS TO DISCOVER AND PARTICIPATE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THE EXPLOITATION OF NIGER'S NATURAL RESOURCES.

6. MR. PRESIDENT, THE HARMONY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES HAVE BEEN CLOSE AND ENDURING. DURING MY TENURE AS AMBASSADOR I WILL DEVOTE MY VERY BEST EFFORTS WITH YOUR HELP, MR. PRESIDENT, TO STRENGTHEN THE ALREADY FIRM BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

7. MR. PRESIDENT, I BRING YOU THE WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS OF PRESIDENT NIXON, AND THE BEST WISHES OF OUR GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE CONTINUED ADVANCEMENT AND WELL BEING OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGER.

8. I HAVE THE HONOR, IN CONCLUSION, TO PRESENT TO YOU
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PAGE 03 NIAMEY 00973 061243Z

THE LETTER OF RECALL OF MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR AND THE LETTERS BY WHICH PRESIDENT NIXON ACCREDITS ME TO YOUR EXCELLENCY, AS AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.BUCHE

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